

Testimony of Maynor Delgado in Support of S.B. No. 427

Good Morning Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Maynor Delgado, a resident of Bridgeport, and I am here to testify in support of Raised Bill No. 427.

This bill would give young people who like me, need a guardian appointed after 18 years of age access to the Probate Courts.

I was born in Honduras in 1995. I never had a mother, father, or stable home. I moved from one house to another, and was abused and neglected by the people who were supposed to care for me. To escape the abuse, I even got a job as a taxi driver at 15 years old to support myself. I was barely making any money, but I was trying. At this time I was living in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, which has been is often called the most violent city in the world. Soon I began receiving death threats by gang members because I refused to join them in their gang. These are extremely violent criminals and I knew I had to flee before they killed me.

With only \$2 in my pocket, I made my way to the United States. I had no money for food or transportation, so I had to walk very long distances and jump onto moving trains. It was a very dangerous journey.

I finally arrived in Texas, and was detained at the border. I was released into the custody of the only true and loving family I've ever had, my aunt Cecilia in Connecticut. This is the first time in my life that I have had any stability or support. There have been many effects of the trauma I faced, and Cecilia supported me with everything I needed.

I found Edwin Colon through a worker at the shelter immigration authorities put me in and was so pleased to find that, because of the abuse, neglect, and abandonment I had experienced, that I could apply for my green card in the United States. I am SO thankful that I found Edwin who in a matter of weeks and a day shy of me turning 18 years old was able to get me the protection I needed from the courts. All I wanted to do was to go to school and work to help my new family. I went to school and now have a job painting houses.

I am here because I am a survivor, and I am speaking up for other youth who deserve this opportunity. If this jurisdiction is extended, other young people will have the ability to work with the Probate Court to help them get access to things they may have never gotten as children, like me. For the first time, I am safe and have a future to look forward to.

Respectfully,

  
Maynor Delgado